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**DEC 04 2003**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of :  
Durden, et al. :  
Filed: February December 29, 2003 : ON PETITION  
Application No. 09/751,809 :  
Attorney Docket No.: 36968/198826 :  
:

This decision in response to the "REQUEST FOR CORRECTION OF FILING DATE OF PATENT APPLICATION" filed October 3, 2003.

The above-referenced application was filed December 29, 2000. A Notice to File Missing Parts of Application was mailed February 15, 2001. The Notice to File Missing Parts of Application indicated that the application had been accorded a filing date and application number but required applicant to submit an executed oath or declaration, surcharge, and substitute drawings. A response to the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application was timely filed March 12, 2001. A Notice to File Corrected Application Papers was mailed March 26, 2001 requiring applicant to submit substitute drawings. A response was timely submitted April 21, 2001. A Notice of Informal Application was mailed May 21, 2001 indicating that the application was considered informal as the declaration failed to identify the citizenship of each inventor as per 37 CFR 1.63.

A review of the official application file confirms that the filing date of the above-identified application was inadvertently altered to March 12, 2001. Therefore, the petition for a filing date of December 29, 2000 is hereby GRANTED.

No fee is due in connection with this petition.

This application is being forwarded to the Office of Initial Patent Examination for further processing with a filing date of December 29, 2000 and for issuance of a corrected filing receipt.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (703) 305-0310.

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